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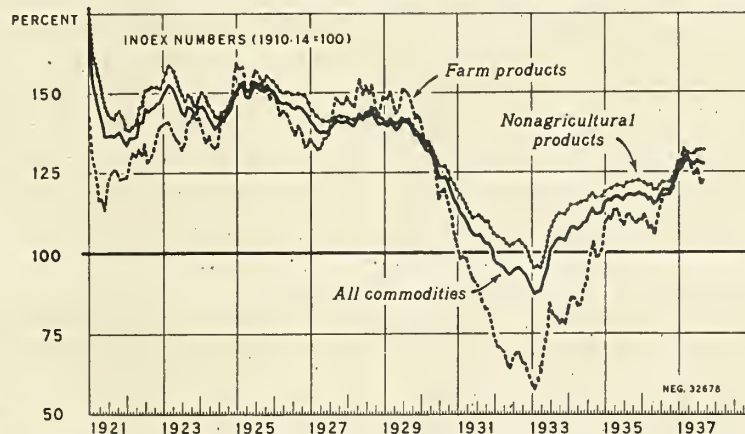
THE DEMAND AND PRICE SITUATION

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

OCTOBER 1937

WHOLESALE PRICES OF FARM AND NONAGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND OF ALL COMMODITIES, 1921 TO DATE

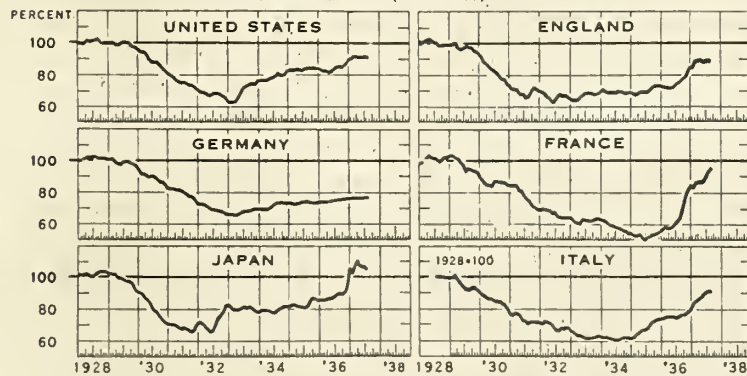


BASED ON DATA FROM BUR. OF LABOR STATISTICS

During the depression, wholesale prices of farm products in the United States declined faster and farther than wholesale prices of nonagricultural products, but regained approximately their pre-war and pre-depression relationships in early 1937, following the general rise which started in 1933. Since the early part of 1937 prices of farm products have declined sharply, whereas prices of nonagricultural products have leveled off.

WHOLESALE PRICES, UNITED STATES AND SELECTED FOREIGN COUNTRIES, 1928 TO DATE

INDEX NUMBERS (1927-29=100)



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 75560, BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

THE WORLD-WIDE DECLINE IN COMMODITY PRICES HAS BEEN FOLLOWED BY CONSIDERABLE RECOVERY IN NEARLY ALL COUNTRIES. SINCE EARLY 1937 THERE HAS BEEN A TENDENCY IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES FOR PRICES TO LEVEL OFF.

DOMESTIC DEMAND

A slight weakening in the domestic consumer demand for farm products during the remainder of 1937 is in prospect. The trend of industrial activity has been downward since early in September. Although changes in consumer purchasing power tend to lag behind changes in industrial activity, decreases in the latter probably will be reflected to some extent in consumer incomes before the end of the year. The demand for farm products which serve as industrial raw materials or are traded on speculative markets will continue sensitive to general business conditions.

The recession now in progress has been indicated for several months by developments in a number of important industries. Last winter and spring pronounced business optimism led to much advance buying and many price increases of a speculative nature. During the summer several industries operated to a considerable extent on unfilled orders, at a rate considerably in excess of current sales. As this less favorable domestic situation became more evident early this fall, a number of uncertainties also developed in the international picture. The declines in prices of stocks and in wholesale prices of a number of important commodities have followed.

The concurrence of a number of favorable developments in the business and international situation could easily change the present course of business sentiment, in which event the necessary adjustments to the conditions of recent months might be concluded with relatively small effect on the long-time course of industrial activity. On the other hand, the general spirit of hesitation on the part of business generated by present circumstances might so affect business that the recession could be extended into one of a length and magnitude comparable with that which occurred in 1924.

Regardless of these longer-time developments, it seems reasonable to expect that the recession will continue in some degree during the remainder of 1937. Hence it is concluded that there will be a slight weakening in the domestic demand for farm products during the remainder of 1937.

FOREIGN DEMAND

With increased supplies of many farm products in the United States now available from the 1937 harvest, and with smaller supplies of some commodities available in foreign countries, a considerable increase in our exports probably will occur. The prices at which these larger quantities will be taken by foreign countries, and prices of important farm products in domestic markets which are directly influenced by foreign markets, will depend to a considerable extent upon developments in foreign industrial activity.

Business activity in most foreign countries has been maintained at comparatively high levels, although some irregularity and hesitancy apparently has developed recently.

In the early months of 1937, considerable expansion of business activity occurred in the major foreign countries, with a consequent stimulation to world trade through price increases of primary products. The quarterly index of the volume of international trade, as compiled by the League of Nations, rose from 93 percent of the 1929 average in the first 3 months of this year to 98 percent in the April-June quarter as compared with 84 percent a year earlier. Current prices received for primary products, while lower than in recent months, are remunerative to most producers, and barring additional declines, should continue to benefit the British Dominions, Latin America, Scandinavia and eastern Europe. China's rapid progress of recovery in the early months of 1937 was checked by the Sino-Japanese conflict, and as long as present hostilities continue, her foreign trade will be very greatly reduced.

Expansion in trade has been more widespread than expansion of business activity. Recently there appears to have been some leveling off of foreign business activity. Production in France has been declining since April, and the value of both imports and exports declined in July and August. In England the value of building plans approved in August in 146 localities was 24 percent below the level of a year earlier, though this percentage might be less if plans approved in the city of London and for Government building contracts were included. Other factors in England unfavorable to business activity were the recent declines in cotton consumption and in exports of British manufactured goods. These developments were offset by others of a more favorable nature, however, and from July to August the general index of business activity increased. Continued expansion of industrial activity in Germany is somewhat hampered by a shortage of materials and skilled labor. In Austria, Belgium, Holland, Poland, and Switzerland, business activity continues to increase.

The long anticipated rise in the physical volume of exports of American farm products occurred in August, when the seasonally adjusted index of agricultural exports rose to 56 percent of pre-war (or 53 percent of the 1929 level) compared with 37 in July and 40 percent in August 1936.

A recent survey of world economic conditions published by the League of Nations stresses the fact that the recent expansion of foreign trade "world be more clearly satisfactory if it were not so largely concentrated on raw materials". The report cites several unfavorable factors affecting the trade outlook, including the limited volume of trade in foodstuffs, the unusual restrictions upon exchange of manufactured goods between major industrial countries, and the sluggish state of the international capital markets.

Despite these uncertainties and recent indications of hesitation, the international industrial situation does not now point to any major change in the relatively favorable conditions which have prevailed during the past year. Taking into account, also, the foreign supply situation, the foreign demand for American farm products should be at least as good during the first half of the marketing season for 1937 crops as during the corresponding months a year earlier.

WHOLESALE PRICES

The general level of wholesale prices continued to decline since mid-September. In early October wholesale prices were 86 percent of the 1926 average compared with the recovery high point of 88 in early April. Recent declines have been most marked for farm products, metals, and textiles, although all commodity groups have shared in the price recession.

Prices of farm products have declined 9 percent since mid-July, ranging from a drop of 24 percent in grain prices to a decline of 2 percent in prices of livestock and poultry. Prices of nonagricultural products have declined a little in the last 2 weeks. They are now a little lower than in mid-July, with price declines in textiles, chemicals, building materials, and miscellaneous commodities about offsetting slight gains in prices of foods, fuel, and house furnishing goods.

The ratio of wholesale prices of farm products to wholesale prices of nonagricultural products for the week ended October 9 was 81 percent of the pre-war level, compared with 97 for the corresponding week last year. The recovery high point of 103 percent occurred in early April.

Recent price trends in the major foreign countries have varied considerably. Prices in Canada and England, after showing considerable strength in July and August, respectively, have declined fairly steadily since then. Prices in England are now at the lowest level since February. In Japan, prices of many leading export commodities, particularly copra, and cow hides, declined in August and September. Prices of Japanese silk have recently established a new low for the year.

Prices in France, however, continue the recent upward swing which began in June, largely because of continued weakness in the exchange value of the franc. Prices in the Netherlands have likewise advanced since June.

PRICES RECEIVED AND PAID BY FARMERS

The general level of prices received by farmers for farm products in mid-September was 118 percent of pre-war, compared with 123 in August and with 124 percent in September 1936. The level of prices paid by farmers for all commodities was estimated at 130 percent of the pre-war average for September compared with 132 for August and 127 a year earlier. The ratio of prices received to prices paid by farmers was 91 percent in September compared with 93 in August and 98 a year ago. The recovery high point of 101 percent occurred in January 1937.

Except for a seasonal advance in prices of dairy and poultry products, and some rise in truck crops, all groups of farm products declined from August to September, with the sharpest declines occurring in grains and cotton. Approximately the same trends have been continued to mid-October, with a considerable decline in the general level of all farm prices during the past month.

FARM INCOME

Farm income in September did not make the usual seasonal increase over August, but was nevertheless greater than in September 1936 when income from farm marketings totaled \$752,000,000. The failure of farm income to make the usual increase over August was due entirely to more than a seasonal decrease in income from crops. Prices of many important crops declined sharply without a sufficient offsetting increase in volume of marketings. This was especially the case in grains and cotton. Income from livestock and livestock products increased contra-seasonally from August to September as marketings of meat animals increased and more than offset the marked decline in meat animal prices.

WHEAT

Since the first of October, prices at Liverpool and domestic markets declined sharply, influenced by heavy Russian shipments and continued liquidation in commodity and security markets. On October 9, however, Russia raised its quotations 3 cents, thus suggesting that it probably did not intend to force very large exports this year.

Liverpool wheat prices moved upward from about August 23 to late September, largely as the result of higher prices asked on new shipments of Australian and Indian wheat and also on January-February shipments from Argentina. During this period prices in the United States, although fluctuating within a wide range, averaged about unchanged, thereby widening the spread of Liverpool prices over prices in domestic markets. Exports from the United States during the current season to date have been small, but domestic prices have now adjusted to levels which may be expected to encourage larger exports, despite recent increases in ocean freight rates. Any significant reduction in domestic supplies as a result of increased exports would in turn become a price supporting factor.

Wheat prices during the next few months will depend largely upon changes in crop prospects in Argentina and Australia, Soviet Russia's policy regarding exports, the tenseness of the European political situation, reports on the area sown and progress of next year's crop in the Northern Hemisphere, and general business sentiment. The combined crops in Argentina and Australia are still estimated at about 40 million bushels less than last year, or about unchanged from the Bureau's estimate in September. The apparently good 1937 Soviet crop and the high level of prices favor fairly substantial exports from Russia this year; in 1933-34 and 1935-36 when crops were also good, Soviet exports amounted to 34 and 29 million bushels, respectively. If a more tense political situation should develop in Europe, there would undoubtedly be an effort made to increase wheat stocks.

While moisture conditions in some areas in the southern part of the hard red winter wheat region are less favorable than last year, moisture conditions in the northern Great Plains area and in the Pacific Northwest are more favorable than a year ago.

CORN AND OTHER FEED GRAINS

Cash corn prices continued sharply downward during the last half of September and early October, with wide variations between prices at different markets and by different grades. The sharpest decline in the price of No. 3 Yellow corn at Chicago came in early October, when the price dropped from 109.4 cents per bushel for the week ended October 2 to 73.5 cents for the week ended October 9, the lowest weekly average since early July 1936. While further downward adjustment in cash corn prices is in prospect, declines during the next few months are not expected to be as sharp as those for the past month. Prices of oats and barley have made little net change during recent weeks, and no immediate large changes in the prices of these grains are in prospect. While prices of high protein feeds will average much lower during 1937-38 than in 1936-37, they will be higher relative to feed grain prices. In the winter of 1936-37 prices of cottonseed cake and meal at Chicago were slightly lower, pound for pound, than No. 3 Yellow corn, whereas this winter cottonseed cake and meal prices may be expected to average somewhat higher.

Despite the very small supplies of corn available during the July-September period, and the relatively low oat prices, the disappearance of oats during this period was 25 percent below the 1928-32 average and 9 percent below disappearance last year. Disappearance also was below average and below that of last year when measured as a percentage of July 1 supplies. The total supply of feed grains available on October 1, consisting of stocks of corn and oats and production of corn, barley and grain sorghums, was 96,961,000 tons as compared with 64,693,000 tons last year and 101,054,000 tons for the 1928-32 average. As no material change is expected in the number of grain consuming animal units during 1937, supplies per grain consuming animal unit on October 1 amounted to .33 tons as compared with .62 tons last year and .86 tons for the 1928-32 average.

FLAXSEED

Cash prices of domestic flaxseed have moved generally upward since August. The price of No. 1 flaxseed at Minneapolis averaged \$2.21 per bushel for the week ended October 2, which was the highest weekly average since early in April. Higher prices have been the result, apparently, of an active domestic demand and a comparatively rapid disappearance of foreign stocks. Since the total world stocks of flaxseed are now at a low level, a continuation of the active demand for linseed oil would maintain prices during the next few months near the present level. Variations in the demand for flaxseed are to a considerable extent a reflection of changes in building activity. The value of building contracts awarded increased from April to July, but since July has declined. A less favorable general business outlook for the immediate future indicates that there may be some further declines in building activity within the next few months.

Prices of flaxseed in Argentina have advanced less than domestic prices during recent weeks, and the spread between the weekly average price of flaxseed at Minneapolis and that at Buenos Aires increased from 66 cents for the week ended September 4 to 86 cents for the week ended October 2.

The carry-over and production of flaxseed totaled about 11 million bushels this year, or 1,750,000 bushels larger than a year ago, but much below the 1928-32 average. The 1937 crop was indicated on October 1 to be 7,643,000 bushels, or less than one-half of average. This reduced production was due entirely to smaller acreages in the important producing States since the yield per acre was slightly above the 1928-32 average.

The rather large volume of imports which has characterized the past marketing year is expected to continue, as domestic supplies will probably not furnish much more than one-third of the domestic requirements during 1937-38. Imports for July and August totaled 3,317,000 bushels, which were above the 1928-32 average and much larger than the small imports for the same period last year.

COTTON

Spot prices at the 10 markets declined to an average of 7.96 cents for the week ended October 9, the lowest weekly average since April 1933, but have since recovered somewhat. The average for the month of September was 8.72, compared with 10.23 in August and 12.05 cents in September 1936. Major price-depressing influences included the improvement in crop prospects in the United States, a large prospective crop in foreign countries, the slackening rate of domestic mill activity, reduced cotton consumption in the Orient, declining unfilled orders and increasing mill stocks of cotton goods in some countries, particularly the United States, and declining prices of many other commodities and securities.

The indicated production of cotton on October 1 according to the Crop Reporting Board was 17,573,000 bales. This is an increase of nearly 1,500,000 bales over that indicated as of September 1, and indicates the second largest United States production in history. The prospective world supply of American cotton for 1937-38 is 23,500,000 bales. This is approximately 4,250,000 bales or 22 percent more than last season's supply, 1,300,000 bales or 5 percent more than the 1928-29 to 1932-33 average, but 2,700,000 or 10 percent below the record high supply of 1932-33.

The Commodity Credit Corporation on October 4, announced new loan provisions designed to make Government loans more attractive to growers by raising loan rates on the shorter staples and lower grades. Up to and including October 11, only 288,200 bales had entered the loan stock.

According to the New York Cotton Exchange Service mill activity in the United States tended to decline in September and early October in contrast to the

seasonal rise which generally occurs about this time of year. Mill activity and cotton consumption are being well maintained in foreign countries, with the exception of China. Exports from the United States during the first 2 months of this season were 838,000 bales compared with 752,000 bales in the corresponding period last season. Shipments were much larger to the United Kingdom and continental Europe but much smaller to Japan as compared with a year ago.

WOOL

Wool prices declined in the domestic market in September but quotations were largely nominal in view of the light trading. The weakness in the domestic market during the past month was preceded by a decline in prices in foreign markets. The domestic price outlook for the next few months is somewhat uncertain because of the unsettled conditions in foreign markets. Wool prices in 1938, however, are expected to be lower than the relatively high prices of 1937. Domestic stocks of raw wool are below average, but mill demand for wool in this country is somewhat weaker than a year earlier.

The total supply of apparel wool in the United States on September 1 plus the part of the domestic production which will become available in the next few months was about 15 percent larger than a year earlier, when supplies were unusually small, but it was smaller than the average for September 1 in other recent years. The increase in supplies this year as compared with a year earlier is due chiefly to larger imports in 1937. Imports of apparel wool for consumption in the first 8 months of 1937 were about 80 percent larger than in the same months of 1936 and were the largest for those months since 1926.

Consumption of apparel wool on a scoured basis by United States mills in the first 8 months of 1937 was 8 percent larger than in the same months of 1936 and was the largest for the 8-month period since 1923. From April through July, however, the decrease in consumption was greater than usual. Consumption in the last 4 months of this year is likely to be considerably smaller than in the corresponding months of last year.

Total supplies from the Southern Hemisphere in the 1937-38 marketing season which is now open probably will show a slight increase over the previous season. The increase in production which appears to be fairly general for the five principal producing countries will more than offset the decrease in end-of-season stocks in those countries. Total supplies in 1937-38, however, are not expected to exceed the average for the five seasons 1931-32 to 1935-36.

HOGS

A further seasonal decline in hog prices is expected to occur in the next 2 or 3 months as marketings of spring pigs increase. With increased feed-grain supplies and lower feed prices this year, hogs probably will be fed to heavier weights, and marketings during the first half of the 1937-38 marketing year are expected to represent a relatively small proportion of the yearly total and a considerably smaller proportion than in 1936-37. Because of the reduced spring pig crop in 1937, moreover, hog marketings in the fall and winter will be smaller than in the corresponding period of 1936-37, but consumer demand and storage

demand for hog products in the next few months probably will be less favorable than a year earlier. Hence, hog prices this fall and early winter may average little if any higher than those of a year earlier.

Inspected hog slaughter in September, totaling 2,033,000 head was 28 percent larger than the very small slaughter in August, but was about 15 percent smaller than a year earlier. Hog prices, after reaching the highest level since 1926 in mid-August, declined sharply in late August and early September. After some recovery in the second and third weeks of September, another sharp decline occurred in early October. Prices at Chicago averaged \$11.37 per 100 pounds in September, which was 40 cents below the August average but was nearly \$1.50 higher than the September average a year earlier.

CATTLE

With continued scarcity of well-finished cattle, prices of the better grades advanced further in September from the relatively high levels reached in August. Top prices paid for cattle at Chicago reached \$19.90 per 100 pounds in late September, which was the highest price paid at that market for the month on record and was exceeded only in the period from December 1918 to April 1919 and in November and December 1919. Prices of most kinds of cattle declined in the first half of October, however. Marketings of the lower grades of slaughter cattle were large in September, and prices of such cattle declined slightly during the month.

A fairly large increase in cattle feeding is expected to occur in the coming winter, chiefly as a result of the larger production of feed grains this year than last, and marketings of fed cattle in 1938 are expected to be much larger than in 1937. The increase in such marketings probably will result in a greater than usual seasonal decline in prices of the better grades of slaughter cattle in the first half of 1938. Marketings of other kinds of cattle, however, are likely to be reduced because of the tendency to restock and rebuild cattle herds in many areas. Prices of the lower grades of slaughter cattle, therefore, probably will advance seasonally in the first half of 1938, and may average about as high for the year as in 1937.

LAMBS

Prices of fed lambs at the beginning of the fed-lamb marketing season in December probably will be somewhat higher than a year earlier. Although some seasonal advance thereafter is likely, it is not expected to be so great as that for the same period a year earlier. The average price of lambs during the entire fed-lamb season (December 1937 through April 1938) may be lower than in the 1936-37 season. Consumer demand for meats and wool may be less favorable, but slaughter supplies of sheep and lambs are expected to be about the same as in the fed-lamb season of 1936-37. An increase in marketings of fed lambs may be offset by a decrease in supplies from sources other than feed lots.

The average price of Good and Choice lambs at Chicago in September was \$10.56, which was about 20 cents lower than in August, but \$1.20 higher than the average for September 1936. Prices of lambs fluctuated considerably during September, however, and in early October the weekly average price of Good and Choice lambs at Chicago was \$10.20. Prices of slaughter ewes continued somewhat higher than last year and were the highest for the month since 1929. Prices of feeder lambs during September were steady to higher despite lower prices of slaughter lambs.

Slaughter of sheep and lambs under Federal inspection in September, totaling 1,670,000 head, was 12 percent larger than in August and 5 percent larger than in September 1936. Larger marketings of range lambs accounted for most of the increase from August to September.

BUTTER

Butter prices increased seasonally from August to September, and it seems probable there will be about an average seasonal rise in prices during the remainder of the year. Prices during the coming winter will probably average higher than in the winter of 1936-37 and the highest since 1929-30.

Production of feed grains and hay in 1937 is high in relation to the number of livestock on farms. Prices of feeds have declined sharply in relation to prices of dairy products. The coming winter will probably be the most favorable for dairy farmers since the beginning of the depression. While these factors will tend to stimulate production, the principal effect on raising production above the level of the preceding year, will probably not be felt until after the first of 1938.

Butter production in August was 4 percent higher than the low production a year ago and except for August 1936 was the lowest for the month since 1931. The 15 percent decline in production from July to August was about the same as the usual seasonal decline. During the next month or two butter production may be even less than in the same period of 1936. Production was unusually high during the fall of 1936 after the drought was broken.

There was a relatively heavy out-of-storage movement of butter in September and stocks on October 1 were 10 million pounds larger than a year earlier, compared with 22 million pounds larger on September 1. Total stocks on October 1 were 10 percent lower than the 1932-36 average for that date.

In early October the price of 92 score butter at New York was 7.7 cents higher than the price of New Zealand butter in London. A year earlier the margin was 10.7 cents.

POULTRY AND EGGS

Two important developments in the poultry and egg situation in the past month have been (1) the sharp advance in chicken prices at a time when the usual seasonal movement is downward, and (2) the much less-than-average seasonal advance in egg prices. Short supplies of poultry, both at present and in prospect, together with low supplies of other meats are largely the cause of the higher chicken prices. Since these conditions are likely to be maintained during the first half of 1938, prices of chickens are likely to be above those of a year earlier.

Large storage stocks of eggs have been partly the cause of the slow advance in egg prices. Since these stocks will continue to affect the situation during the rest of 1937 the farm price of eggs is not likely to exceed that of a year earlier until early 1938 when the effect of the small hatch will be felt on egg production.

APPLES

Prices of eastern apples in terminal markets continued their seasonal decline during the past month, but have now probably passed the season low point. Prices of apples from the Pacific Northwest also have declined slightly but have been relatively high thus far, owing to the late season and consequent light shipments from this area. Further declines in prices of western apples are expected as the movement of apples from the Northwest gains in volume. The seasonal rise in apple prices during the latter part of the current marketing year is expected to be somewhat less than usual, in view of the extremely large crop and the possibility of some decline in consumer buying power during the first part of 1938.

Prices of New York McIntosh apples on the New York City wholesale market averaged 92 cents per bushel for the week ended October 8, 1937, compared with \$1.06 for the corresponding week in September, and \$1.73 for the same week in October last year. Rhode Island Greenings at New York averaged \$.72 per bushel for the week ended October 8, 1937, 78 cents for the same week in September, and 98 cents for the corresponding week in October 1936. Fancy and Extra Fancy Washington Delicious apples on the Chicago auction market averaged \$1.84 per box for the first week of October this year compared with \$1.94 a year ago.

On October 1 the total 1937 apple crop was indicated at 206,716,000 bushels, which is slightly above that indicated a month earlier, and is the largest crop since 1926. Some improvement was indicated during September in the Atlantic Coast States and in the North Central States, but prospects declined slightly in the western States. The indicated 1937 crop in the western States is about the same as the 1931-35 average of 52½ million bushels. In the Atlantic Coast States the crop is indicated at more than 94 million bushels, and in the Central States at almost 60 million bushels.

POTATOES

A further adjustment of potato prices in the New York and Chicago markets occurred during the past month. Maine Green Mountains and eastern Round Whites advanced a few cents per 100 pounds in New York, while northern

Round Whites declined about 10 cents in Chicago. Because of the exceptionally large crop of Russet Burbanks in Idaho this year, that variety dropped sharply -- about 40 cents per 100 pounds -- in both these markets. Bliss Triumphs also declined slightly in Chicago. Potato prices generally are not expected to show much fluctuation between now and the end of December. They are much lower than prices of a year ago, when production was relatively small.

Severe drought in Wisconsin during September reduced crop prospects there about 4,000,000 bushels, but in most of the other late-potato States growing conditions continued favorable and yields are high. Frosts recently occurred in some northern sections, and the potato harvest was nearing completion. Based on October 1 condition, the total United States potato crop is now indicated to be approximately 399,000,000 bushels. This is a reduction of 4,600,000 bushels from the September report, but is still 69,000,000 bushels, or 21 percent, above the relatively small crop of last year and 7 percent above the average production for 1928-32. The only significant change from prospects of a month ago is the reduction of 4,500,000 bushels in the 10 central late-potato States. The 18 surplus-producing States combined now expect 284,000,000 bushels of potatoes, or 44,000,000 bushels more than in 1936 and 24,000,000 bushels above average. The 12 other late States have an indicated crop of 40,000,000 bushels, which is about their average production but is an increase of 3,000,000 bushels over last year.

Car-lot shipments were approaching the peak of the year. For the week ended October 9, movement from the 18 surplus States had increased to about 5,320 cars and was slightly greater than output of the same period last season. Total movement from these States this season to date is around 31,000 cars, compared with 32,000 a year ago. About 80 percent of the recent shipments were coming from Maine, Minnesota, North Dakota, Idaho, and Colorado.

TRUCK CROPS

Frosts began to cut down shipments of some truck crops, and the total market supplies were seasonally smaller in early October than a month earlier. Sharp price advances recently were recorded for cucumbers, eggplant, green peas, and tomatoes. Celery and green corn advanced on the New York market, and snap beans and beets sold higher in Chicago. Eastern and midwestern onions advanced slightly in price on further reports of crop damage, but western onions (which are in large supply) declined in price. Fall-crop western vegetables -- such as carrots, broccoli, and lettuce -- which become more abundant during October and November, tended sharply downward in price, and most other truck crops were selling lower than a month ago. Florida, Texas, southern California, Mexico, and Cuba will now become seasonally more important as sources of fresh winter vegetables, and northern crops moving from storage will tend to advance slightly in price. Dry weather during September checked the growth of some of the important truck crops, such as cabbage, but in general the supplies available for market are very ample this season.
